

Senate Study Bill 3269

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY
CO=CHAIRPERSON DVORSKY)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a heroes' welcome project
2 within the department of veterans affairs, and providing an
3 appropriation.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
5 TLSB 6694SK 81
6 pf/je/5

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 35E.1 DEFINITIONS.
1 2 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context
1 3 otherwise requires:
1 4 1. "Department" means the department of veterans affairs
1 5 established in section 35A.4.
1 6 2. "Veteran" means a resident of this state who served on
1 7 active duty in the armed forces or the reserve forces of the
1 8 United States or who served as a member of the Iowa national
1 9 guard in active federal service at any time during the
1 10 following dates and who was discharged under honorable
1 11 conditions:
1 12 a. Vietnam conflict from February 28, 1961, through May 7,
1 13 1975.
1 14 b. Lebanon or Grenada service from August 24, 1982,
1 15 through July 31, 1984.
1 16 c. Panama service from December 20, 1989, through January
1 17 31, 1990.
1 18 d. Persian Gulf conflict from August 2, 1990, through the
1 19 date the president or the Congress declares a cessation of
1 20 hostilities. However, if the United States Congress enacts a
1 21 date different from August 2, 1990, as the beginning of the
1 22 Persian Gulf conflict for purposes of determining whether a
1 23 veteran is entitled to receive military benefits as a veteran
1 24 of the Persian Gulf conflict, that date shall be substituted
1 25 for August 2, 1990.
1 26 e. The Iraqi conflict from March 19, 2003, through the
1 27 date the president or the Congress of the United States
1 28 declares a cessation of hostilities.
1 29 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 35E.2 HEROES' WELCOME PROJECT.
1 30 1. The department shall establish a heroes' welcome
1 31 project to provide grants to organizations that provide
1 32 support to veterans and their families for outreach efforts
1 33 that inform veterans about and assist veterans in accessing
1 34 benefits, programs, and services to make a healthy transition
1 35 to and achieve a stable civilian life. To the greatest extent
2 1 possible, recipients of grants shall coordinate outreach
2 2 efforts with existing veterans' outreach efforts of the
2 3 department and the Iowa national guard.
2 4 2. The department shall establish a heroes' welcome team
2 5 to coordinate postdeployment and continuing support to
2 6 veterans and their families. The team shall act as a
2 7 centralized point of contact for and shall include
2 8 representatives of military, federal, state, local, and
2 9 nongovernmental agencies that provide benefits and support to
2 10 veterans and their families.
2 11 Sec. 3. VETERANS' ISSUES INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE. The
2 12 legislative council is requested to establish an interim study
2 13 committee on veterans' issues. The interim study committee
2 14 shall provide for the hosting of forums throughout the state
2 15 for veterans and their families, veterans' organizations, and

2 16 other interested parties to discuss issues and needs specific
2 17 to veterans, especially those veterans who have been exposed
2 18 to combat or who have witnessed or experienced life=
2 19 threatening or traumatic events. The interim study committee
2 20 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to
2 21 the general assembly for consideration during the 2007
2 22 Legislative Session. The committee shall consist of nine
2 23 members of the general assembly, including members of the
2 24 standing committees on human services of the senate and the
2 25 house of representatives, the standing committee on veterans
2 26 affairs of the house of representatives, and the veterans'
2 27 caucus of the standing committee on state government of the
2 28 senate. A chairperson or co-chairpersons shall be designated
2 29 by the legislative council.

2 30 Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION == HEROES' WELCOME PROJECT. There
2 31 is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
2 32 department of veterans affairs for the fiscal year beginning
2 33 July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007, the following amount,
2 34 or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the
2 35 purposes designated:

3 1 For implementation and administration of the heroes'
3 2 welcome project created pursuant to chapter 35E, as enacted in
3 3 this Act, including grants to organizations that provide
3 4 support to veterans and their families for outreach efforts to
3 5 inform veterans about and assist veterans in accessing
3 6 benefits, programs, and services to make a healthy transition
3 7 to and achieve a stable civilian life:
3 8 \$ 125,000
3 9 Grants awarded under this appropriation shall not exceed
3 10 \$25,000 per organization.

3 11 EXPLANATION

3 12 This bill directs the department of veterans affairs to
3 13 establish heroes' welcome project to provide grants to
3 14 organizations that provide support to veterans and their
3 15 families for outreach efforts that inform veterans about and
3 16 assist veterans in accessing benefits, programs, and services
3 17 to make a healthy transition to and achieve a stable civilian
3 18 life. To the greatest extent possible, recipients of grants
3 19 are to coordinate outreach efforts with existing veterans'
3 20 outreach efforts of the department of veterans affairs and the
3 21 Iowa national guard. The bill also directs the department of
3 22 veterans affairs to establish a heroes' welcome team to
3 23 coordinate postdeployment and continuing support to veterans
3 24 and their families. The team is to act as a centralized point
3 25 of contact for and which is to include representatives of
3 26 military, federal, state, local, and nongovernmental agencies
3 27 that provide benefits and support to veterans and their
3 28 families.

3 29 "Veterans" are defined in the bill to include residents of
3 30 the state who served on active duty in the armed forces or the
3 31 reserve forces of the United States or who served as a member
3 32 of the Iowa national guard in active federal service at any
3 33 time during the Vietnam conflict, Lebanon or Grenada service,
3 34 Panama service, the Persian Gulf, or the Iraqi conflict.

3 35 The bill also provides that the legislative council is
4 1 requested to establish an interim study committee on veterans'
4 2 issues. The interim study committee is to provide for the
4 3 hosting of forums throughout the state for veterans and their
4 4 families, veterans' organizations, and other interested
4 5 parties to discuss issues and needs specific to veterans,
4 6 especially those veterans who have been exposed to combat or
4 7 who have witnessed or experienced life-threatening or
4 8 traumatic events. The interim study committee is directed to
4 9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
4 10 general assembly for consideration during the 2007 Legislative
4 11 Session.

4 12 The bill provides for an appropriation for the
4 13 implementation and administration of the heroes' welcome
4 14 project, including the grant program for outreach efforts.
4 15 Grants are limited to \$25,000 per organization.

4 16 LSB 6694SK 81

4 17 pf:nh/je/5.1